

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W  
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R 171342Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0302

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: XF, PEBR  
SUBJECT: KUWAITI DEFENSE MINISTER'S REACTION TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN  
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH DEFENSE/INTERIOR MINISTER  
SHAIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLAH ON JANUARY 17 I HAD OCCASION TO  
DISCUSS WITH HIM CURRENT PROGRESS IN ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN  
NEGOTIATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE. SHAIKH SA'AD  
EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY  
OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HE  
SUGGESTED THAT THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN IN THE CAIRO PRESS  
WAS DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FOR THE  
WITHDRAWAL OF SADAT FROM THE CURRENT TALKS. HE SAY THE  
OBSTACLES PLACED BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE WAY OF  
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A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM AS  
EVIDENCE OF LACK OF SERIOUS ISRAELI DESIRE FOR PEACE.

2. I SUGGESTED THAT THE EGYPTIAN PRESS CAMPAIGN COULD ALSO  
BE DESIGNED TO BRING INDIRECT PRESSURE ON THE  
ISRAELIS WHO FOLLOWED EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENTRIES VERY  
CLOSELY. I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT

PRESIDENT SADAT BE ENCOURAGED BY THE MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO PERSEVERE IN HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PEACE. SHAIKH SA'AD WAS NONCOMMITAL ON THIS POINT AND NOTED THE STRONG OPPOSITION TO SADAT'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS REGISTERED BY A NUMBER OF ARAB GOVERNMENTS. I ASKED HIM WHAT SOLUTION THOSE GOVERNMENTS PROPOSED FOR THIS PROBLEM OTHER THAN RESORTING EVENTUALLY TO WAR AND USING EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS TO FIGHT IT.

3. I AGAIN URGED HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES TO INDICATE GOK SUPPORT FOR SADAT WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM THE ENCOURAGEMENT HE NEEDED TO PURSUE THE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD. I REMARKED ON THE ISRAELI REPUTATION FOR VERY HARD BARGAINING AND RECALLED FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND SINAI DISENGAGEMENT EXERCISE (ALEXANDRIA END) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EXASPERATION WITH THE ISRAELI PENCHANT FOR LONG AND REPEATED ARGUMENT OVER EVERY DETAIL IN A NEGOTIATION. I COUNSELLED PATIENCE ON THE PART OF ALL CONCERNED IN THIS VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION, WHICH, GIVEN THE WILLINGNESS OF BOTH PARTIES TO PERSEVERE, COULD FINALLY RESULT IN A COMPROMISE THAT, ALTHOUGH NOT FULLY SATISFACTORY TO EITHER SIDE, COULD BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** KUWAITI DEFENSE MINISTER'S REACTION TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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